



Sustainability Commission – Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee –

Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 14, 2023
Meeting Time: 12:00 PM
Meeting Location: via ZOOM (recorded)

Attendees: Phil Francisco, Charlotte Weigel

Minutes:

Started – 12:00pm

- Agenda Item 1: Review minutes from Aug 17th meeting and Aug 31th meeting
 - Charlotte moved to accept the minutes from the August 17th meeting as written. Phil seconded. Phil – aye. Charlotte – aye
 - Charlotte moved to accept the minutes from the August 31st meeting as written. Phil seconded. Phil – aye. Charlotte – aye.

- Agenda Item 2: A review of decarbonization plans of neighboring towns
 - Charlotte presented a review of climate action plans (CAPs)/decarbonization plans from three towns:
 - Harvard, MA
 - Phil asked questions about their goal to require private haulers to provide composting to customers, their plan to provide an electric shuttle to town center, and their goal to expedite permitting for EV charging.
 - Athol, MA – municipal and community decarbonization plans completed working with a consultant through an MRPC REPA grant
 - Hingham, MA – Hingham has an MLP
 - We agreed that it is very helpful to look at CAPs of towns with MLPs as they afford unique opportunities for facilitating decarbonization. In Hingham, the MLP is a driver of town-wide decarbonization efforts through incentivizing efficiency and favorable distributed renewable energy policies. They are also pursuing solar PV for some municipal buildings. We will review CAPs from one or two additional MLP communities.
 - We seem to be in a third or fourth wave of towns developing these plans. This offers opportunities to explore what other towns have done and how effective those plans have been several years after implementation. This past summer, Acton evaluated their efforts to reduce emissions. It would be good to follow up on those results when they are available. Phil noted that more recent CAPs, like Acton's, reference even earlier adopters, like Concord. Concord also is an MLP community and would be another good example to look at.
 - After review, it was decided that the next step we will propose in the town-wide GHG presentation will be a near-future follow-up meeting to discuss a potential path forward. In that follow-up meeting, taking into account reaction to the inventory, we will provide an overview of paths to climate action in neighboring towns including climate resolutions, the formation of climate action planning committees, an overview of common features among municipal climate action plans, and funding opportunities for climate action planning.

- Agenda Item 3: Review of current methodologies for calculating carbon sequestration of natural and working lands

- This was not discussed because the necessary preparatory work was not done.
- Agenda Item 4: Discuss the potential benefits and limitations of the use of carbon sequestration analysis
 - This was not discussed because the necessary preparatory work was not done.
- The date of the next subcommittee meeting will follow the presentation of the town-wide GHG inventory to the Select Board to take their comments into account on how to move forward.

Meeting adjourned – 2:00pm

Next Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee meeting: October 10, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

- **Charlotte Weigel** Sustainability Commission Member

Minutes approved by Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee, October 10, 2023.